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PLAIN AND FANCY

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## · Commercial Advertiser.

### The Public School Question.

Ms. Encross:--My attention has been called to an editorial in the Haverlian Gazette of Aug. 25th, which purports to be a review of a report on common schools adopted by the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, at its recent meeting in Honolulu.

A frank and honorable review of that report, by any member of the Board of Education, is just ifying to a large body of Protestants in these Islands. Instead of such a review, however,which the report fairly challenged-we have a most inconclusive series of misstatements, evasions and special pleadings, which, instead of convincing one that though several charges in the report were based on insufficient grounds or downright mitruths as the review asserts, leaves us with fresh as it is. convictions that the statements put forth are irrefragably true.

of certain school houses-is to be excepted from the imputation of evasion. Doubtless those who certified the facts upon which that item of the report was based, will have a word to say in reply to the Board's flat denial.

In what may be replied to the review, otherwise, its own order of arrangement will be followed. 1. The report charges it as one of the causes

of dissatisfaction with the present management of our educational interests and of solicitude for the presperity of the common schools, that to prepare the way for the new system of public education, the former school laws were repealed, and the office of Inspector General created-giving to the person filling it "EXCLUSIVE POWER TO SELECT, APPOINT OR REMOVE ALL THE TRACHERS OF ALL THE senoots"-i. e. leaving out entirely parental wishes as unworthy a moment's consideration-in fact as of no more account in conducting the educational inof South Carolina slaves in Southern education five

This is the simple damaging FACT which the re-[of this office] the Board of Education are not responsible"! The report alleges a measure of desbehests! No marvel that the review styles the report a "singular document," for surely it would have been singular and something more, had the assembled Evangelical Protestanism of these Islands opened its mouth to take exception to the legislative creation of so useful and proper on office as that of the Inspector General of the Schools. But with an official review opening in this manner, with mature deliberation too, what

are we not to expect in its onward movement? 2. "By their objection to the incumbent of the Inspector General's office personally, the Committee virtually destroy whatever force there might have been in their previous argument No.

But then is this official soberness? one wants to ask. Verily, in reading the remarks on the first count of the report we had more than half suspected that the Board were facetiously inclined! yet, let that pass since the point of the second specification is fairly reached. "The report objects to the person and not the office." Precisely so. It most decidedly objects, and rightfully too, to the appointment to so responsible and influential an office as that of superintendent of our common schools, of one of the most thoroughly determined and noted enemics of Evangelical Protestantism in the Hawaiian Islands, and that because the seection of such a man for the office is itself the clearest evidence that the Board deliberately purposes to trample our rights under foot, and there no avoiding this conclusion. Fair professions and smooth words are only to be accepted for their par value, when they are backed by corresponding acts. And this we have hoped to see lone, as an indication of honorable intentions. But we have looked in vain. On the contrary we have seen the Inspector General started on one of the most positive and urgent anti-missionary crusades ever undertaken on these Islands. And now because we cannot stultify ourselves and trust men who are zealously working towards a sinister end, whilst they bulk towards another and a more laudable end, the Board charges us with hostility to non-sectarian schools which they desire to susfain. The imputation is not true. Not one word from any Missionary against the establishment of such schools, has ever met my eye. If the Board has ever seen anything of the sort, they can tell. Not a Protestant on the Islands, I venture to say, would have any objection, against such schools. We had supposed such schools had been sustained by the Government for many years past. But our judgment has probably been warped by Protestant bigotry - for a Reformed Catholic Board and its inspector General tell us, ex cathedra, that there never have been any such schools among us, i. e. such non-secturian schools of course as they are getting into operation-and to tell the truth, we rather think that no such non-sectarian schools ever have existed on the Islands. We hope not

Further we are fully of the opinion that not one word would have been uttered against the Inspector General-obnoxions as he could not but be, to Evangelical Protestants for his long avowed hostility-had not his first official tour forced upon us the conviction that he was prostituting his official authority to wage a disreputable war upon Protestant interests. And we furthermore perceive that he is sustained in all these official doings by the Board of Education.

Possibly there is not perfect unanimity in the Board on this subject, and that may perhaps account for the fact that protestations against such proceedings on the part of their executive officer, have been honorably received by certain memberswhilst promises of a remedy are yet to be verified. But not to dwell longer upon this topic, we should like in all frankness to ask the Board of Education if, in their rebound from a stigmatized Evangelism. there was no possible holding up in their appointments of officers, till they landed in the abyss of the direct hostility? Or was this ultra antagonism

better suited to the ends they had in view? 2. The wishes of the parents are utterly disregarded in the selection of men to instruct their children," says the report. The official review does not pretend to deny it. Its special pleading and evasion is simply humiliating and unworthy of any public body with an honest purpose in hand, and to pretend as they do, that under the former laws the parents had nothing to say in the matter" is. either ignorantly or purposely, a gross misstate-

4. " It is announced that all religious influences shall hereafter be excluded from the schools. This item charged in the report, the Board deny. We had not supposed they would venture quite so far as that in the face of accumulated facts. Not part of the country we have never heard a syllable 493-1y to speak of foreigners who heard repeated time of premium-giving. And considering that the men and again the injunctions of the Inspector General, are rare who take any considerable interest in the and parents, who have ever insisted that all reli- of officials under the present Board as well as gious influences were prohibited on pain of dismis- others-could any more unsatisfactory way of do sal from the teacher's post. Not even a remark | ing business be devised." Men who have taught apon any part or precept of the Bible-and so far successfully for half a score of years, feel wronged was this stringency exercised that in reply to when a girl or a boy, the favorite of some local inquiries of curious parties the teachers were school agent, is picked up from the streets, and absolutely prohibited either in school or out of with no sufficient knowledge character or expeschool as teachers from saying a word to get a rience, is put into a school at 50 cents per diemchild into Sabbath school or meeting. Of course the same sum which they themselves receive. This the underscored words are the scape goat. But in Is what we daily see and knew, the theory of the the imperative force and repetition of the directions. Board to the contrary notwithstanding. But what those unemphasised words dropped entirely out man on the Islands even tolerably versed in the curse moon. and whole communities were innoculated with conduct of a healthful business, would not know, the idea that the Board of Education had set itself before such an experiment were fried, as well as its earnest to demoralizing the outworks of Protes- afterwards, that it must prove a failure and disas-



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY HENRY M. WHITNEY.

our attention. What does it all mean?

remedy is simple. Let it be applied.

as they pursue their present policy.

specior's doings in North Kohala, in which be

united a private school of the Romanists numbering

15 pupils with a public school numbering upward

of 40 pupils, and gave them both over to the

Roman Catholic teachers. Furthermore did they

not read the official announcement (afterwards

published), that a Roman Catholic teacher had

been procured and was to be sent immediately

further announcement that he should continue to

send teachers of that same religious denomination

-replacing in every case well-qualified Protestant

tenchers who were acceptable to the parents? And

similar facts are reported in other parts of the

Islands. Now, is it conceivable that we can place

confidence in men who thus deal with questions

which vitally affect the most precious interests of

the larger part of the nation. Would such men, I

ask, hesitate to apply the pains and penalties of

persecution outright, in a land less afflicted with light, than these Islands? We are not keepers of

Romanism and I see no possible force in the

for sooth we have no call to fight their battles.

They are amply able to care for their own interests.

10. Here we have in the report the most as-

tounding of all its specifications touching the mal-

feasance of the Board of Education. Men of known

immorality it charges as having been selected with

deliberate purpose to goard the virtue of the children

and youth of the nation. The reply to this grave

imputation is as follows: "There were Judases

before the flood (2) and probably there may be till the

end of the world '! Who the particular antedilu-

my ken. I give it up. 12. "The schools are left by the Board of Educa

who know anything of rural life among Hawanians

are aware that to leave the schools without

such an officer is to consign them to a speedy death.

The reply of the Board to the allegation is that the

Committee might have known that "the appoint-

ment of bina kula is discretionary with the local

school agents"! Very well: and suppose they

had been possessed of this marvellous bit of knowl-

without a luna kula, and thus condemning those

13. The report specifies as its final complaint

against the Board of Education, that "they have re-

duced the reages of the teachers to a uniform rate.

without regard to the amount of labor performed or

to the skill or fidelity of the teacher, and thus taken

away all stimuli to exertion and prematurely ex-

The truth of the charge is admitted and justified

with the denial, however, that all stimulus is taken

away by the payment of a uniform rate of wages.

the result, and it would be well to understand, i

possible, how any other result could be looked for

from so unbusiness a course of procedure. But

say the Board, "we offer premiums for special ex-

cellence in school keeping." Yet even supposing

(which is, in effect, not supposable) would it not be

an awkward and blundering method of effecting a

desirable end? As a simple matter of fact in this

possible that a practice of premium-giving could

general and meet the necessities of the case

hausted the school funds and turned the children

schools to an inevitable extinction?

for common minds.

HONOLULU, HAWAHAN ISLANDS, OCTOBER 13, 1866.

that parents and pastors are equility and eachestly. The executions under the present manual ment, as invited by the Board to attend to and provide reli- a source of the deepest solicitude and alarm, to all ? gious instruction for their children," says the re- who love the Hawaiian race. From four to six viewer. We had supposed that it would scarcely months the children are east off to wander in idlebe recaoned as an act of special or meritorious ness and be tempted into mischief and vice. For courtesy, were a person to welcome his neighbors this, the present Board of Education are solely reto continue a life-long habit and drink at the sponsible. Have they no remedy, to apply to this stream flowing by their own doors as well as his. giant evil? If not, we beg they will seek aid in His neighbors might possibly fail to see in such a devising wise measures to meet the exigency from case, the significance of the invitation, just as we their friends who know how to achieve success in fail to see the virtue there is in this singular layl- the practical pursuits of life. the article that would have been particularly grat- tation of the Board of Education to continue a In conclusion the Board bring against "the Com-

bubit, which for nearly half a century, we have mittee and its friends" the very polite charge of felt it our privilege to exercise as freely as we "sowing discord and strife, agitation and distrust draw the breath of life, without any regard to the trowns or favors of third parties. The "invitation" but for their promptings, would never have seen the we have said is very singularly unique-yet not bugbears with which they are frightened." All very less so than is this fresh attempt to push it upon | courteous no doubt, but the work of slandering missionaries is an old trade in which some of the gen-5. This is not fise place for a discussion of the tlemen have become experts, and therefore the ani-Bible in-school question. It may therefore be left may being understood little need be said to staye off the official impeachment, foreible in unique good 6. The report declares that "the teaching of taste and candor. Still, as to the Hawaiian people rausic in the public schools is forbidden as a school -one would have supposed that the history of the exercise." The Inspector General-to say nothing recent session of the Legislature might have cured The eleventh count, however-regarding the sale of the published "rules" of the Board-said the the silly fancy of certain foreigners. Hawaiians are same thing, unless indeed there were technical not so stupid a people as not to know when they catches designed to mislead the unwary. Certainly are lungry or when they are deprived despotically that is the general understanding of his instructions, and what is more it is the practice uniformly score of years. But there are some things very in all public schools within my knowledge. Vocal hard to be cured. This perhaps is one.

music has been as rigidly expetied from the schools under the present Board as "religious instruction;" invitation from themselves to the Evangelical Assoand both are unknown. If the Board really does ciation, to meet the Board, during its recent session set forth rules which elude the comprehension of in Honolulu.

ordinary people, the fault is their own; and the So far as my recollection serves me, no such invitation was addressed to the Association by the 7. The report objects not to the Lord's prayer. Board of Education. But even had there been, to Fort St, opposite C. E. Williams' Ferniture Warerooms. 538 3m that has been for scores of years in daily use, in have accepted it, would obviously have been a bootthe schools. What they do object to is, after the less ceremony. An essential prerequisite to useful imperative exclusion of all religious and sectarian | consultation is mutual confidence. The association instruction from the schools that they should thus needed confidence that the Board was willing to endeavor to force upon them a written form of adopt a fair and honorable course of official action prayer, a thing which is obnoxiously sectarian, towards themselves and their co-religionist Either the logic of the review is lame on this, as on | the evidence afforded by the past, was of entirely other topics dealt with, or else it is too recondite different character; and now mat which is afforded us in the official review, indicates unmistakeably 8 and 9. We take it the point of this article of that no such policy would for a moment have been the report is sufficiently obvious to any fair minded dreamed of. Indeed the final sentence of the review man who regards it as a consistent whole, or who furnishes us with too marked evidence of the style of terests of the notion, than would have been the voice is at least willing to believe that it was designed courtesy which might have been accorded the assoas such. The complaint is that in accordance with ciation had they met the Board for any purpose the unfairness charged against the action of the whatever. We are only too thankful that no meet-Board of Education (in the preceding article), we ling between the two bodies took place. It will be have here still another item viz., a discriminating quite time for mutual consultation when the Board port sets down against the Board. And to this, combunding of things against Protestantism to the of Education shall indicate, not by smooth verbal the review deigns this reply— For the conception advantage of Romanism. But under the circums generalities, but by natural deeds, that they do not stances it would be too much, doubtless, to expect | elect men to office and keep them in, whose single an unprejudiced interpretation of the points made qualification is intense hostility to missionaries and in the report, or an honorable treatment of the Evangelical Protestantism and whose official duties same. And we have seen so much of this sort of seem to consist mainly in efforts to trample both pousin wormy of decreph Spain and unspeakably degrading to the Hawaiian people, and the Board to the Board to the Board to the Board to the Hawaiian people, and the Board to the Board to the Hawaiian people, and the Board to the Hawaiian people to the us have ceased to look for fair and candid, much of common manhood. It would be the easiest says, it is not chargeable with the office that exc- less for high minded treatment, worthy a body of possible thing to unite all Protestants cordially in sition which they support of non-sectarian schools were the Board of occupy. The Evangetical Protestantism of the Education to make a slight approach to fairness of Islands has nothing of the kind to hope for, so long treatment in the appointment of its agents. Of course we do not desire missionaries in these agen-We charge the Board with a designed ignoring cles as things are, but we do desire men whose offiof the fact that certain schools are composed of cial status is not a standing insult to Protestantism Protestant children, entirely or very nearly so, and as we hold it. And candidly we should like to know that against the wishes of the parents and entire if in the judgment of the Board there is really no community. Roman Catholic teachers have been eig media-no middle way in conducting the new put over these schools, without any valid excess school system? If Evangelicism is to them the whatever. The Board aver that in only two in- Charybdis to be avoided must they needs steer stances has this been done, either as a consequence straight over into the Scylla of infidelity and imof mixing schools or otherwise. This assertion is morality, and in any case, of dire hostility? We contrary to facts which are patent to all. I will ask these questions, because they involve the pith not however aver that the member of the Board of the whole controversy between Profesiants and who is responsible for the review, was aware of the Board of Education. And we heartily wish they the doings of the Inspector General. If he was would answer them, with an eye wide open to panot, he should have been or kept silence. When he penned that disclaimer, was he aware of the selves are responsible—as well as to the future well Inspector General's proceedings in Hilo? If not I would certainly advise him to make inquiry either of the Priest or Missionary—also of the In-ONE OF THE COMMITTEE.

# Business Cards.

B. F. SNOW, Priest's care, having put them previously under Importer and Dealer in General Merchandise. Merchant Street. B. F. EHLERS. for another school in Kohala composed of Protestant children nearly 50 in number? And then his

Dealer in Dry Goods, Silks, &c., Fort Street. H. HACKFELD & CO., General Commission Agents.

Honoinia. JOHN RITSON. Dealer in Wines, Spirits, Ale and Porter. Honoluiu.

JOHN THOS. WATERHOUSE, Importer and Dealer in General Merchandise, Queen Street, Honolula.

ALEX. J. CARTWRIGHT. alleged want of impartiality on our part, because Commission Merchant and General Shipping Agent, Honolulu, Onhu. JOHN H. PATY.

Notary Public, Honolulu, H. I. Office at the Bank of Bishop & Co. 537-6m H. Y. LUDINGTON. (SUCCESSOR TO F. S. PRATE & CO.) Importer and Wholesale Dealer in Wines, Spirits. and Malt Liquors, Charlton Wharf, Honolulu.

vian Judas was I have no means of knowing, but what conceivable connection the existence of a GEORGE G. HOWE. hypocrite before the flood can have with the above specification or the acts therein charged is beyond Dealer in Redwood. Northwest Lumber, Shingles, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Nails, Paints, &c. At his Old Stand, Fort street, on the Esptanade. from without a Lunakula," says the report, and all

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trous at that, for a binneder in experimenting with the entire public school system, by unpractical men, cannot in the nature of things but prove disasters.

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ASSORTED SIZE ROUND, FLAT AND | Cooking Stoves, assorted patterns; SQUARE BAR IRON, COOPER'S RIVETS.

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Cases Charcoal Irons, large with shield. Woodenware

3 Hoop Pails, painted and grained; Cases Douglass Arm Chairs, Cases Common Wood Chairs, Cases Astor Grecian Chairs.

> Children's randles. ut, Fiftoner ginia, Cornelius wore of Groceries mucky, ex-

Cases Pickles,

Cases Fruits, Cases Jams, Cases Table Salt.

Bbls. Vinegar, Boxes Corn Starch, Bbls. Dairy Salt, Cases Chocolate,

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anism as they hold it. A few words of a curt trous at that, for a binnder in experimenting with prayer was allowed till something sufer could be the entire public school system, by unpractical persent feature of Teas and other Chinese and Recign Goods feetured

"But the Committee take no necount of the fact | trons.